

WHAT IS SOCIAL EQUALITY?

Maj Douglass Discusses the Maudlin Talk About the Roosevelt-Washington Dinner—Is this a Republic?

Editor The Colored American:—What is social equality? Is it to be gauged by political successes, wealth, intelligence, refinement, morality, or simply opportunity. If Booker T. Washington was not the social equal of the President, a hundred dinners at his table would not make him such, and on the other hand, if he was the social equal of Mr. Roosevelt the fact that he had never dined at the White House would not lessen his standing socially. To ascertain whether the President has erred in dining Prof. Washington, we must first determine what constitutes social equality. If color is a factor, the out cry could have been raised long ago, for men, and women of all colors have been dined at the President's table.

The people who affect to be more outraged than others at the act of the President, are the Southern white people. They claim that there exists a "natural abhorrence" on the part of the whites to the Negro, against any semblance of equality, or intermarriage, the proof of which is about as convincing as the evidence the Jew clothes dealer offered, to prove that the coat he was endeavoring to sell, was all wool. He exclaimed to his customer; "If you don't believe dot coat was all wool, I shust take you in the back yard and show you the sheep the wool came from." So if you doubt, believe there is a "natural abhorrence" to any semblance of social equality with the blacks, on the part of the whites in the South, why just go down there and behold the million or more half breed whites and blacks, and both upon their statute books, and read the laws, and severe penalties attached to prevent inter marriage between the races. If they are to be believed themselves, the high class southern whites began their lives at the breasts of "black mammies."

No! the objection to the President is not social, it is political. He was making heavy inroads upon the ranks of the Southern Democracy by his utterances, and by his appointment of Ex-Rev. Jones to a Federal Judgeship, and this act of dining Prof. Washington, is the first opening for what his enemies consider a good opportunity for a "knock out blow." It will not work though for want of force, and already prominent Southerners are weakening. They have done everything that President Roosevelt has done, and more, for the so-called best blood of the South courses through the veins of the Negro in that section. At the time of the citizens reception to the 10th Cavalry in this city, upon its return from Cuba at the banquet table sat General Joe. Wheeler, and near him sat the black Chaplain of that regiment, and among the other officers present, were several "high blood" southerners. There was no flinching, and everyone present seemed in the best of spirits, General Joe. Wheeler vying with other speakers in his commendation of the valor of the 10th U. S. Cavalry, his black allies.

If the Southern whites are really sincere in their proposed desire to keep their blood pure and unadulterated, they would set about making laws that would at least lessen the illegitimate relations between whites and blacks that began with slavery, and have continued since. It is impossible in the large cities of the South to draw the

line between the races, they are so mixed. In the North white and black frequently marry, in the South they cohabit. They would marry but for the laws and penalties. It is nonsense for these southern whites to talk of "natural abhorrence" in the face of these facts to the contrary.

President Roosevelt needs no defense for sitting at the table with Booker T. Washington. Equals met and that is all there is in it.

In a country like ours a man may have been a "rail splitter," or a canal boat driver, and yet become President of the United States, so likewise a man may have been a bondman, and yet some day sit at the table with the President of the United States. We have no royal roads to fame in this country. So men who have bartered away their own flesh and blood should keep silent, if they have any shame, ever such a trivial incident of two equals, different only in color, dining together.

The South is not at all modest in its demands. They want their treatment of the Negro to be adopted by all other sections of the country. Before the War they wanted to roam about the country at will with their slaves dragging behind them. They wanted their ideas of morality and good breeding followed by the North. In fact, they want to set the pace politically, and socially for the entire country, but they are unfit to lead. The war settled that out the conciliatory policy since, has made them bold and aggressive.

CHARLES R. DOUGLASS
Washington, D. C., Oct. 21.

GETTING ON IN THE WORLD.

When we take into consideration the many impediments that the Negro race necessarily has to encounter, it will be seen that the art of "getting on in the world" is one of the greater concerns than most persons imagine. There has been many demonstrations though of the fact, that the Negro can make his way in the world fully as well as any other man, if he so elects. The first and most important essential necessary to one's "getting on in the world" is to gather all the information possible, as to the "how," and after finding the right path, stick to it, take things as they come, making the best of everything and success is sure.

It is of very small concern what a man's qualifications are if he is not a firm believer in those qualifications that he possesses. Self-reliance is the mainstay of the individual at every juncture and those who rely solely upon agencies other than their own merits will find that there is in the path of life many rough places that will more than likely, prove difficult to them.

There are many who have formed a habit of fretting and fuming over the few ills that they chance to stumble upon. The habit of worry is largely a physical infirmity; it is a lack of harmony in the mental system. The well poised soul, the self-contented man, never wobbles or hesitates. The infinite balance wheel preserves him from all shocks and all accidents of uncertainty.

Worrying indicates a lack of confidence in our strength; it shows that we do not lay hold of that universal energy which leaves no doubt, no uncertainty. The individual who does not worry, who believes in himself, touches the wires of infinite power. Never doubting, never hesitating, he is constantly reinforced from the Omnipotence that creates planets and suns.

The making of a career is no small task and in every instance, aspiration is the foremost success winner in one's life; there is always hope for the man who aspires and hungers for growth. Briefly, it is unfortunate for the person who does not know, when they stand upon the threshold of active life, that absolute honesty and transparency of character, are the quickest means of promotion; that integrity is the shortest road to success.

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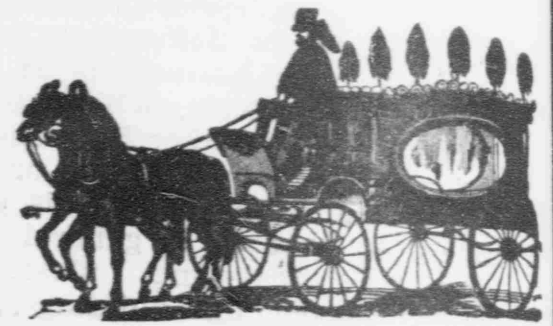
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